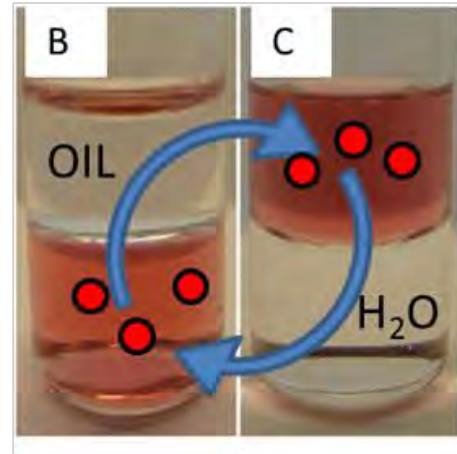
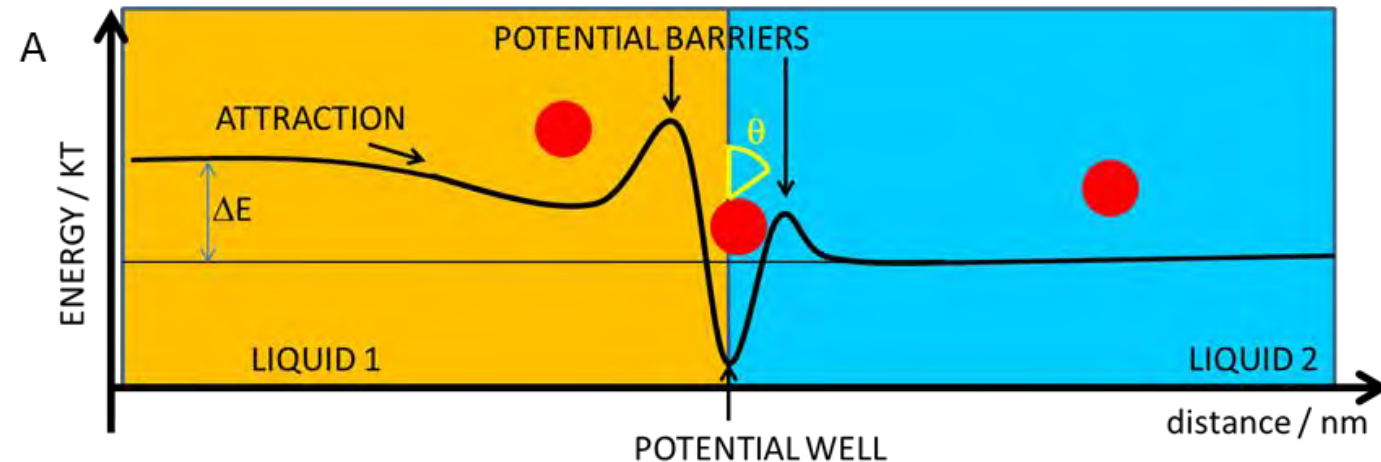


# Nanoparticle Adsorption and Crossing of Fluid interfaces



A. Stocco<sup>1</sup>, D. Wang<sup>2</sup>

1. ICS CNRS, Strasbourg, France

2. Jilin University, China



(2010...2015)

Postdoc (MPI-CI, Germany)

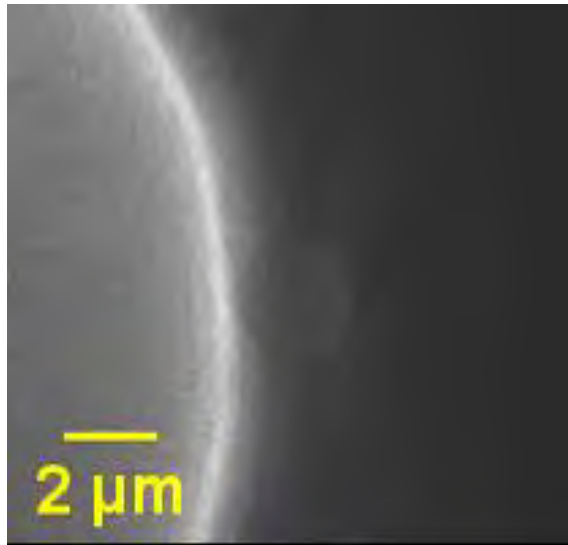
***"Phase transfer of nanoparticles across liquid-liquid interfaces",***

D. Wang, H. Möhwald



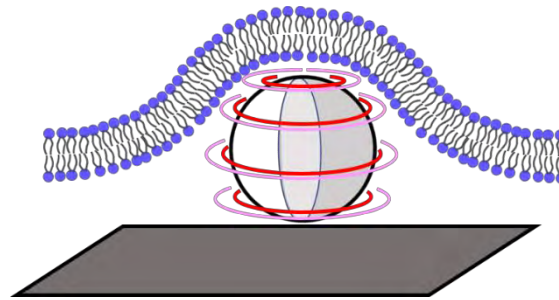
# Context: Particle interacting with Interface/Membranes

## Entry of Microparticles into Giant Lipid Vesicles by Optical Tweezers



Silica  $R_p = 1 \mu\text{m}$   
POPC Giant Vesicle

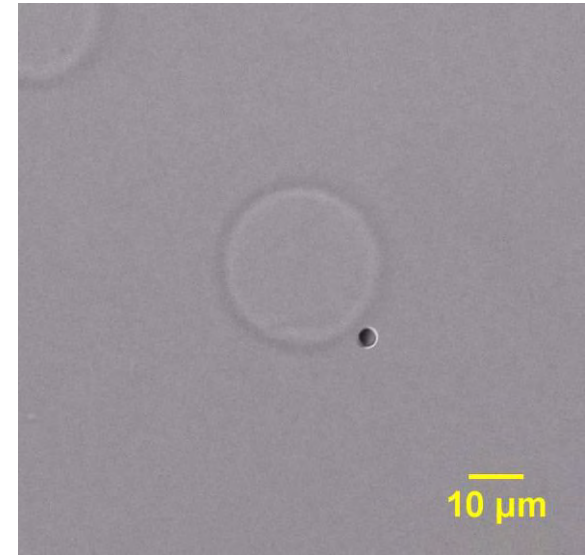
Fessler et al.  
Phys. Rev. E 107, L052601 (2023)



*Rotational and Translational  
Drags of a Janus Particle  
Close to a Wall and a Lipid  
Membrane*

Sharma et al.  
Journal of Colloid and  
Interface Science, Volume  
652, 2159-2166 (2023)

## Dynamics of Active Colloid Engulfment by Giant Lipid Vesicles

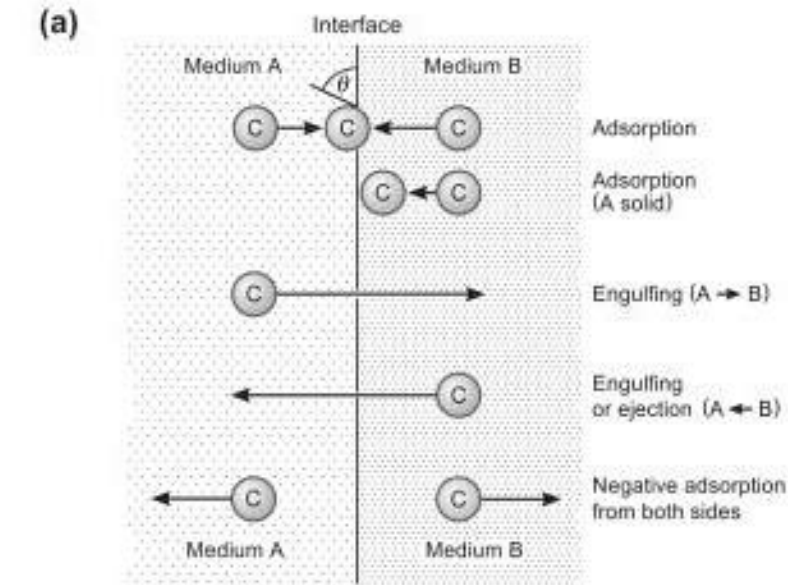


Cu/Silica  $R_p = 1 \mu\text{m}$   
POPC Giant Vesicle

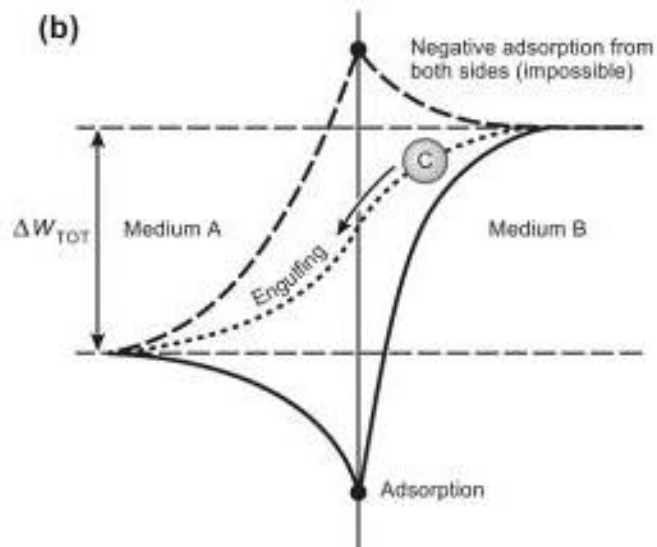
Fessler et al.  
*In preparation*

# Energy Landscape across an Interface

Chapter 10 • Unifying Concepts in Intermolecular and Interparticle Forces 199



- Adsorption
- Engulfing - Crossing
- Negative Adsorption



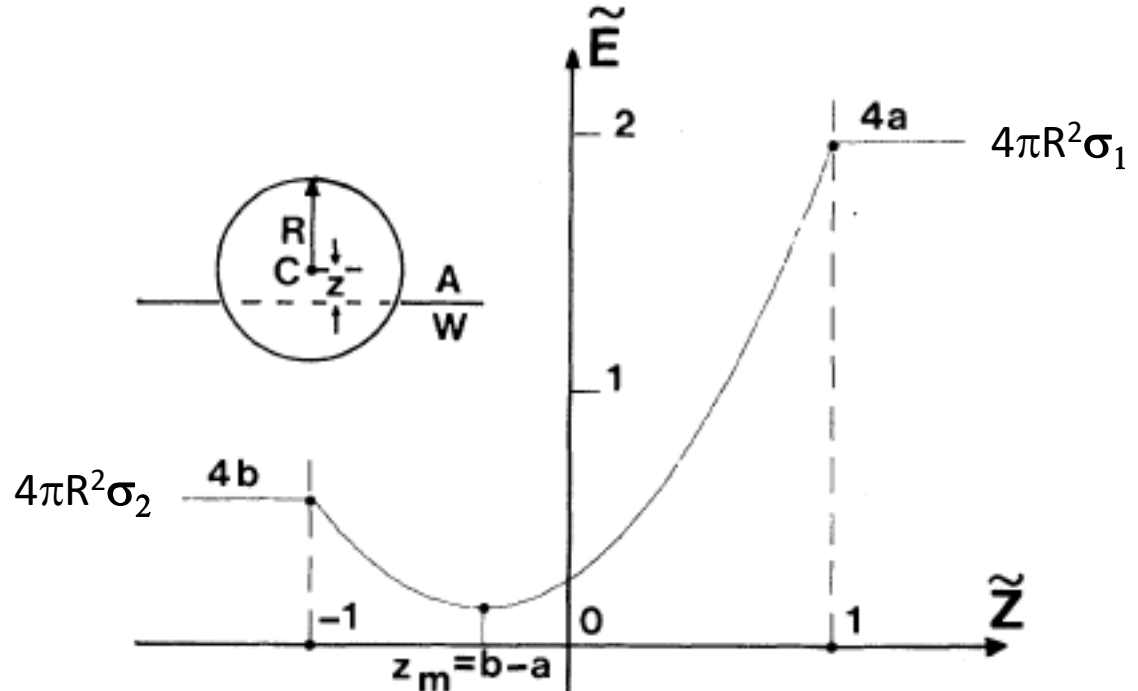
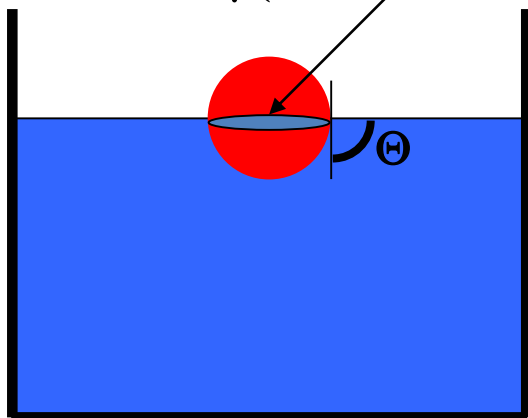
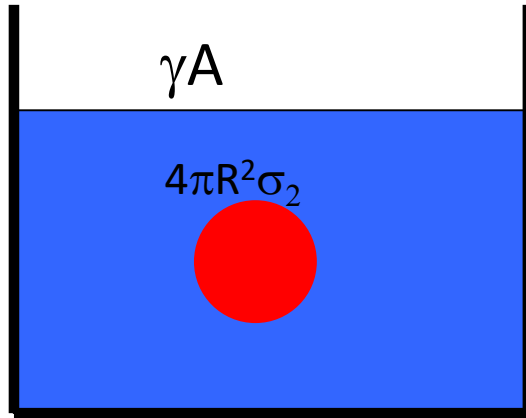
*Intermolecular and Surface Forces:*  
*Jacob N. Israelachvili*

# Wetting vs Colloidal Forces: Large Length Scale

- Macroscopic view:

Wetting energy (Interface + Particle)

*P Pieranski PRL 1980,  
BP Binks...*



$\Theta$  = particle contact angle

$$\min(E), z_m/R = \cos\Theta = (\sigma_2 - \sigma_1) / \gamma$$

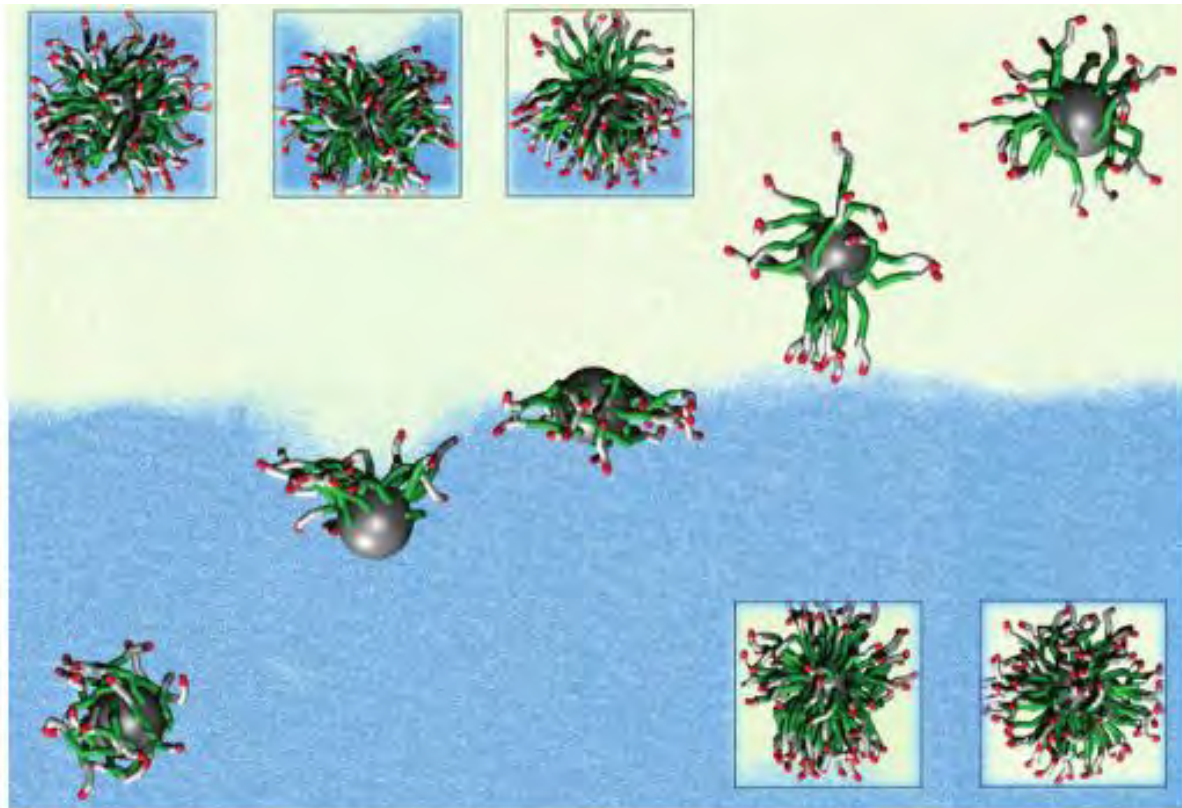
$$-\Delta E_w = \pi R^2 \gamma (1 \pm \cos\Theta)^2 \quad \text{=ca. } 1000 \text{ kT (if } R = 10 \text{ nm)}$$

# Wetting vs Colloidal Forces: Small Length Scale

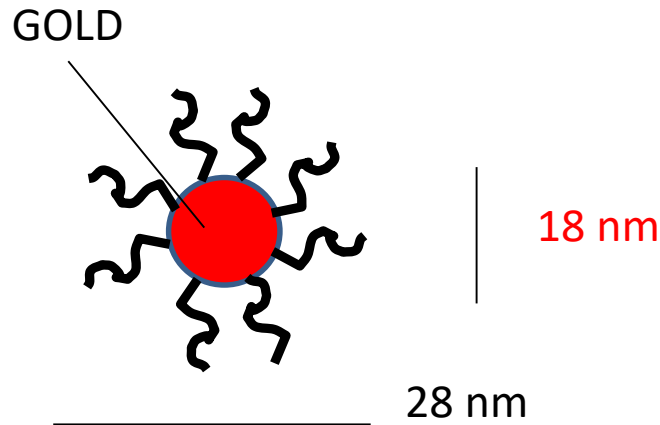
- Nanoscopic view: Van der Waals and Electrostatic, Hydrophobic and Solvent-surface groups Interactions

*J. Phys. Chem. C, Vol. 114, No. 28, 2010*

$-\gamma\pi R^2$  ?



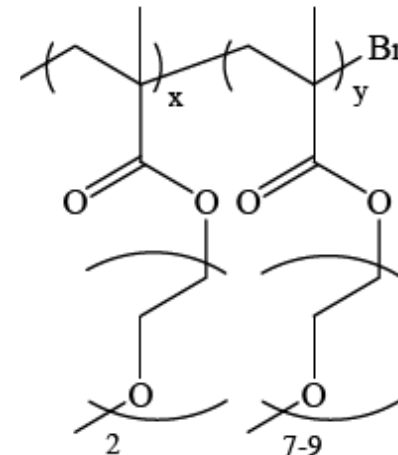
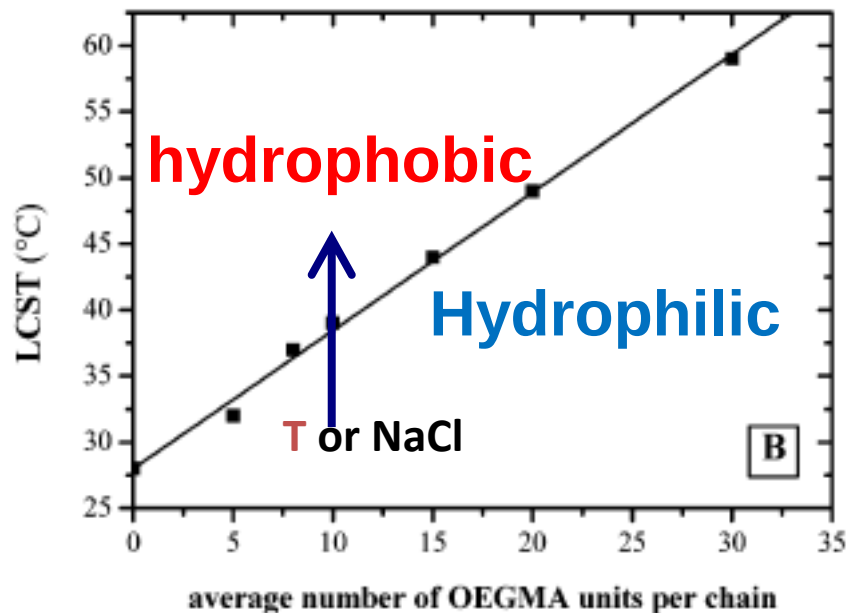
# Experiment: Polymer coated Nanoparticles



PMMA-PEG-based Copolymer Shell

Poly(MEO<sub>2</sub>MA<sub>x</sub>-co-OEGMA<sub>y</sub>)

x = 90, y = 10



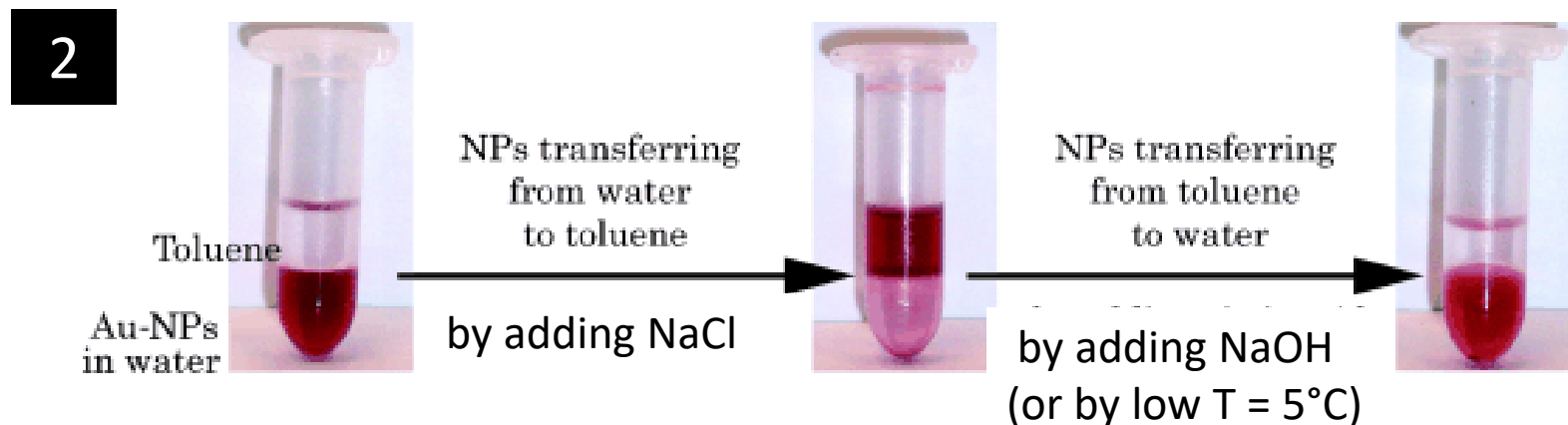
Responsive to T and ionic strength (NaCl)

# Crossing Observations



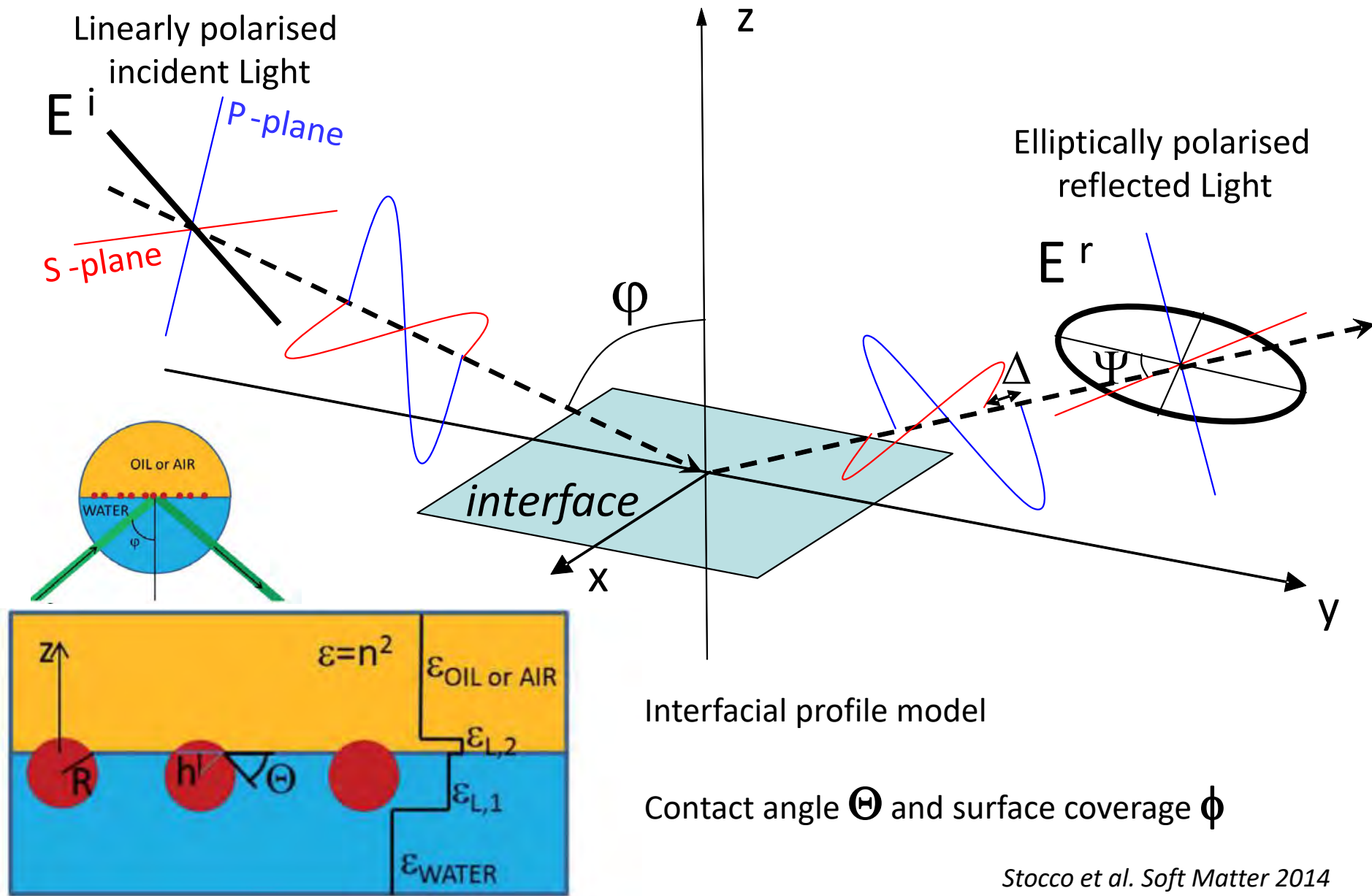
Water to Toluene  
at room T by adding NaCl salt

*Replacing salty water with pure water,  
NO reversible transfer!*



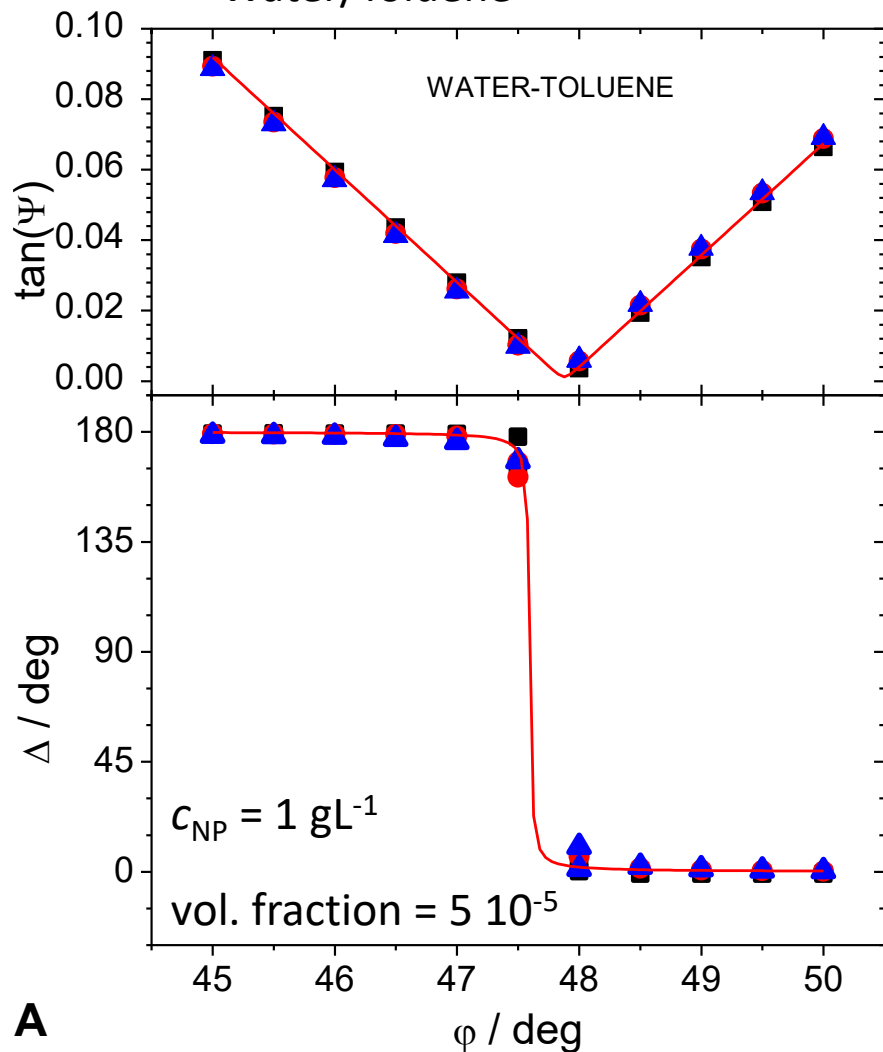
*NP Free energy  $E (+NaOH) < E(\text{in Toluene}) < E(\text{in Water})$*

# Ellipsometry: non invasive, in-situ Adsorption



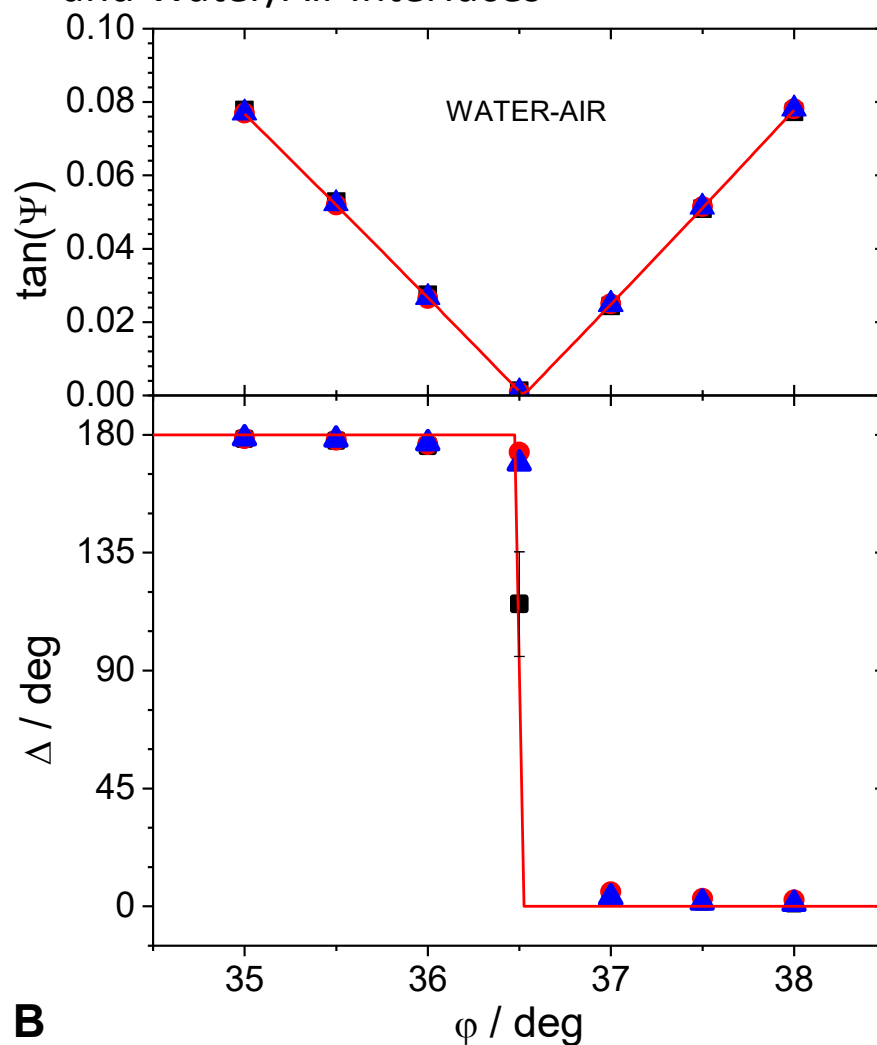
# NO Spontaneous adsorption in pure Liquids

Water/Toluene



A

and Water/Air Interfaces



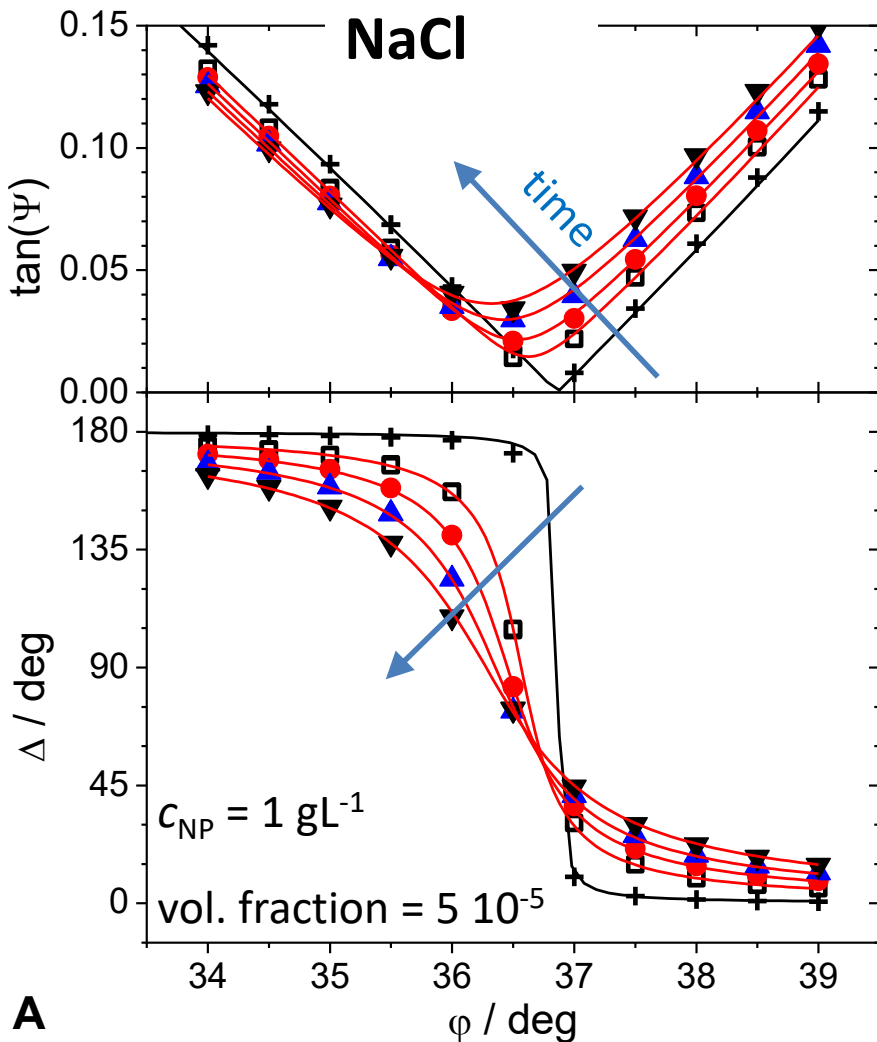
B

**NO significant changes, NO ADSORPTION !**

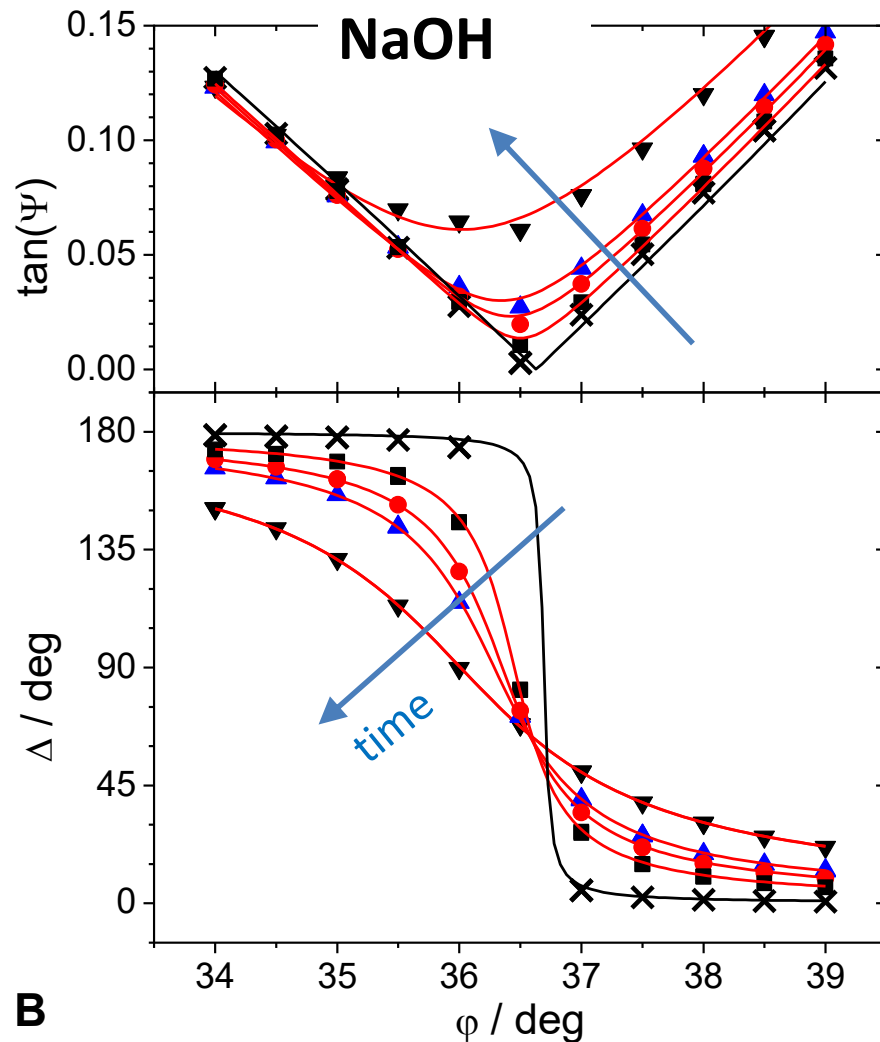
# Adsorption occurs in 0.1 M salty water

Water/Air interfaces

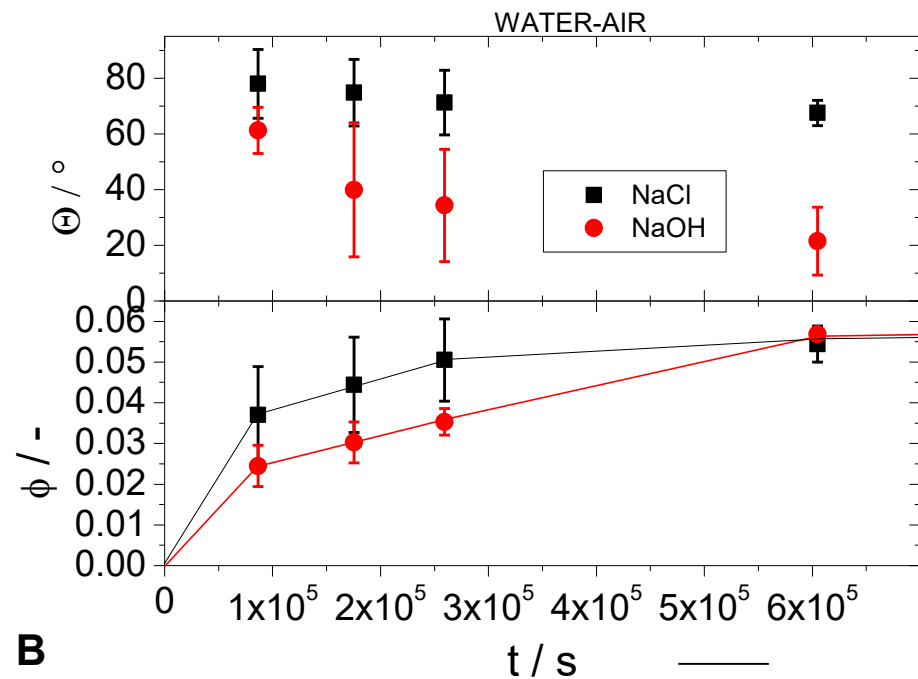
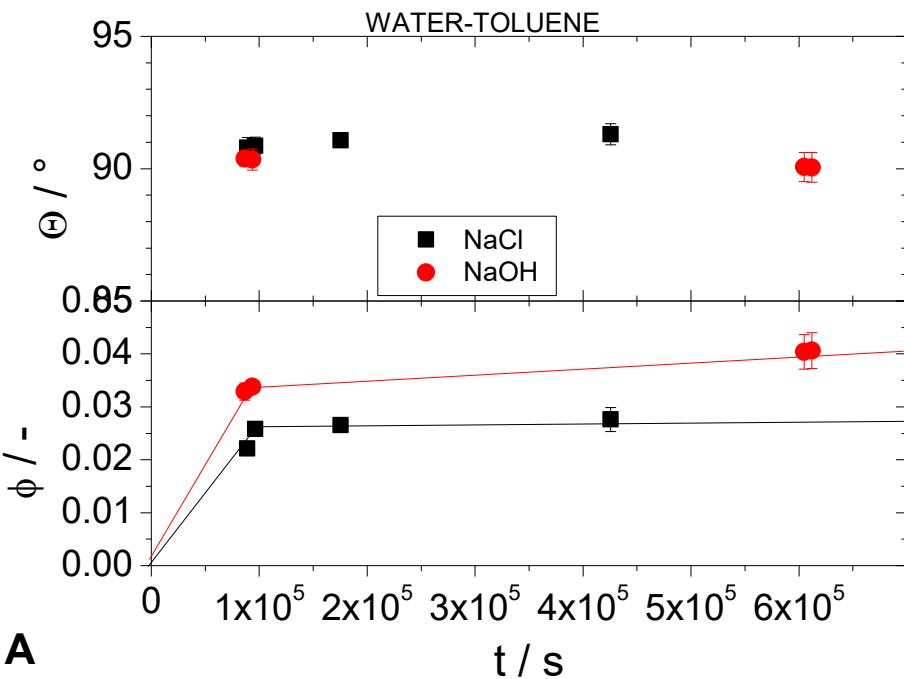
*promotes "hydrophobicity"*



*promotes "Hydration"*

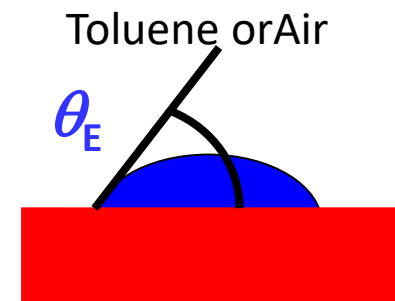


# Surface coverage $\phi$ and Contact angle $\Theta$

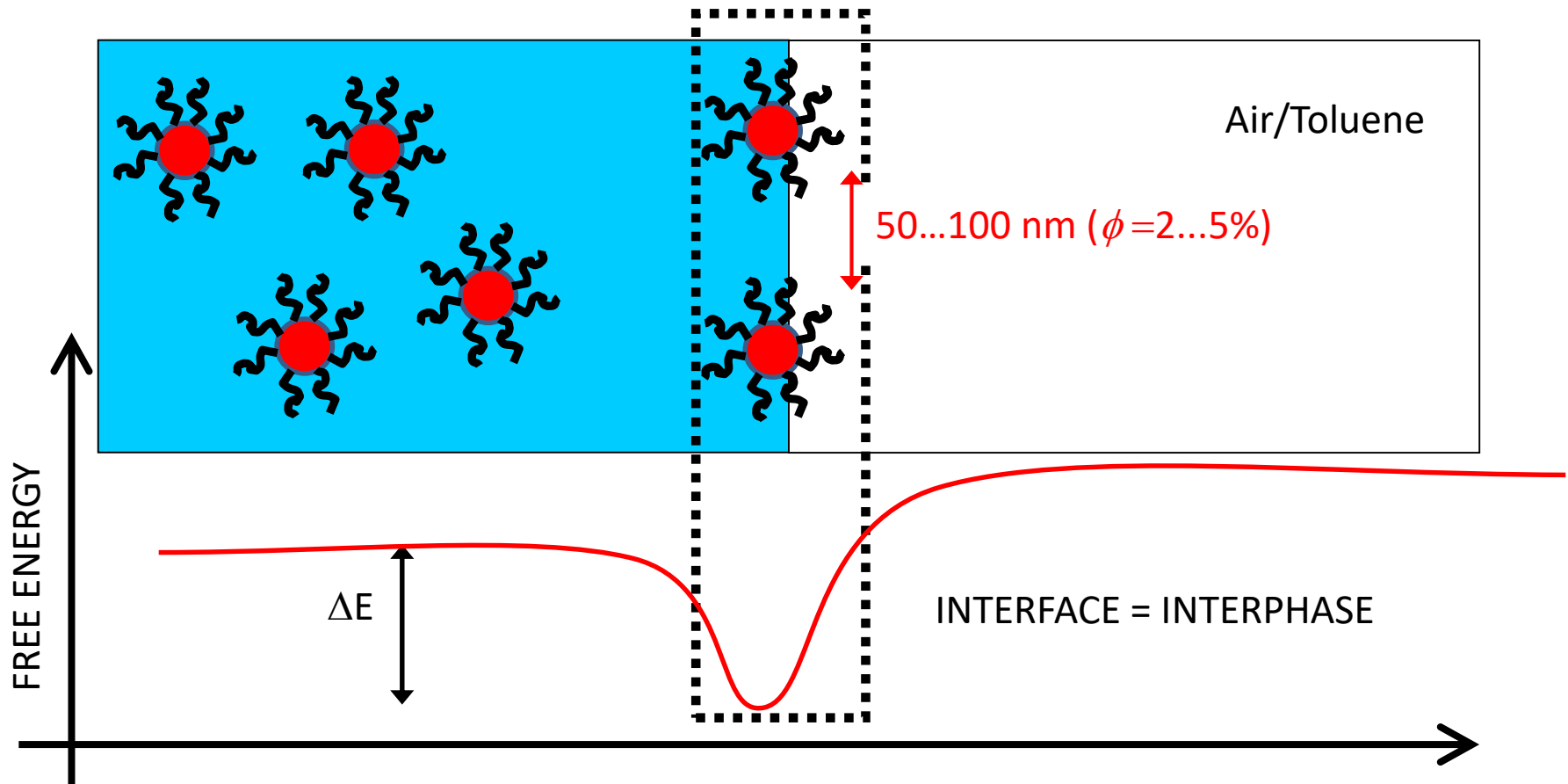


**5 DAYS !**

|            | Water in toluene | 0.1 M NaCl in toluene | 0.1 M NaOH in toluene |
|------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| $\theta_E$ | $93.0 \pm 1.1$   | $91.5 \pm 1.4$        | $87.4 \pm 1.0$        |
| $\Theta$   |                  | $91.3 \pm 0.4$        | $90.0 \pm 0.6$        |
|            | Water in air     | 0.1 M NaCl in air     | 0.1 M NaOH in air     |
| $\theta_E$ | $53.3 \pm 0.9$   | $52.2 \pm 0.7$        | $53.1 \pm 1.2$        |
| $\Theta$   |                  | $67.5 \pm 4.6$        | $21.5 \pm 12.2$       |



# Surface coverage $\phi$ reveals $\Delta E$



Knowing the Bulk conc. ( $c_B$ ) and finding the Surface conc. ( $c_S$ ), one might define:

$$K = c_S/c_B = \exp(-\Delta E/kT)$$

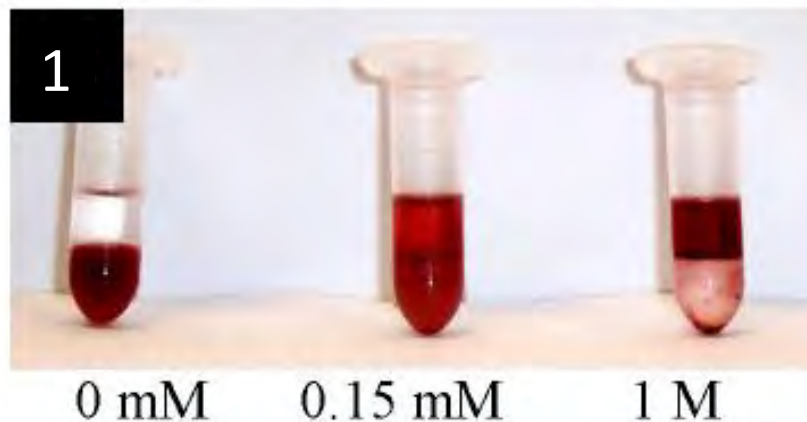
$$\Delta E = \text{ca. } 6 \text{ kT } (\rightarrow \text{crossing})$$

Wetting- single particle

$$-\Delta E_w = \pi R^2 \gamma (1 \pm \cos \Theta)^2$$

$$= \text{ca. } 10^2 \dots 10^3 \text{ kT } (\rightarrow \text{adsorption})$$

# Crossing Observations

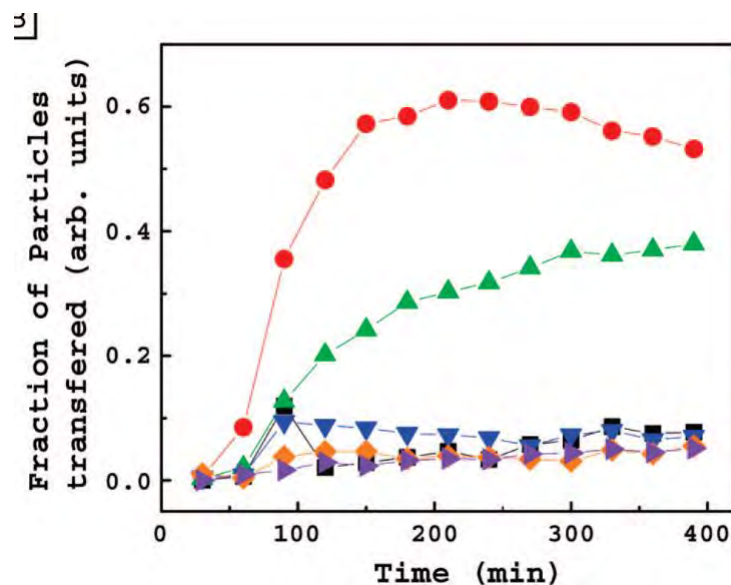


Water to Toluene  
at room T by adding NaCl salt

*Replacing salty water with pure water,  
NO reversible transfer!*

*Free energy  $E (+NaOH) < E(\text{in Toluene}) < E(\text{in Water})$*

Crossing----- adsorption



# Total Energy $E = E_W + \dots$

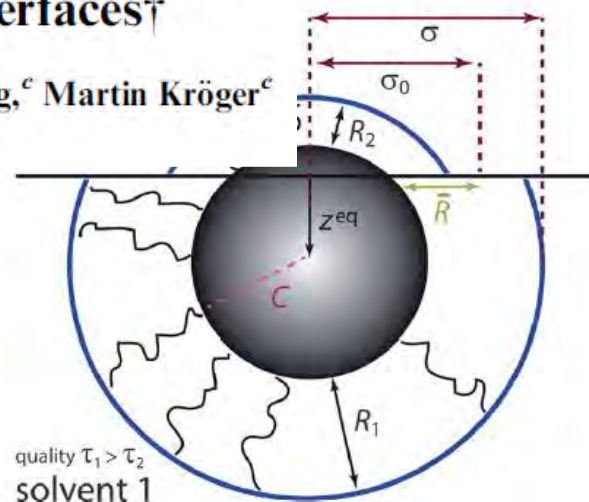
+DLVO (electrostatics + VdW)

+Adsorption of core-shell nanoparticles at liquid–liquid interfaces†

Lucio Isa,<sup>\*a</sup> Esther Amstad,<sup>a</sup> Konrad Schwenke,<sup>b</sup> Emanuela Del Gado,<sup>b</sup> Patrick Ilg,<sup>c</sup> Martin Kröger<sup>c</sup>  
and Erik Reimhult<sup>ad</sup>

$$f_i^{\text{int}}/k_B T = \frac{N}{\phi} [(1 - \phi) \ln(1 - \phi) + \chi_i \phi (1 - \phi)],$$

$\chi_{FH}$  (Flory-Huggins parameter, solvent quality)



+ Hydrophobic coating- and surface active solvent-mediated self-assembly of charged gold and silver nanoparticles at water–air and water–oil interfaces†

Lijun Xu,<sup>a</sup> Guobin Han,<sup>b</sup> Jiawen Hu,<sup>\*a</sup> Yan He,<sup>a</sup> Jiangao Pan,<sup>a</sup> Yongjun  
and Jiannan Xiang<sup>a</sup>

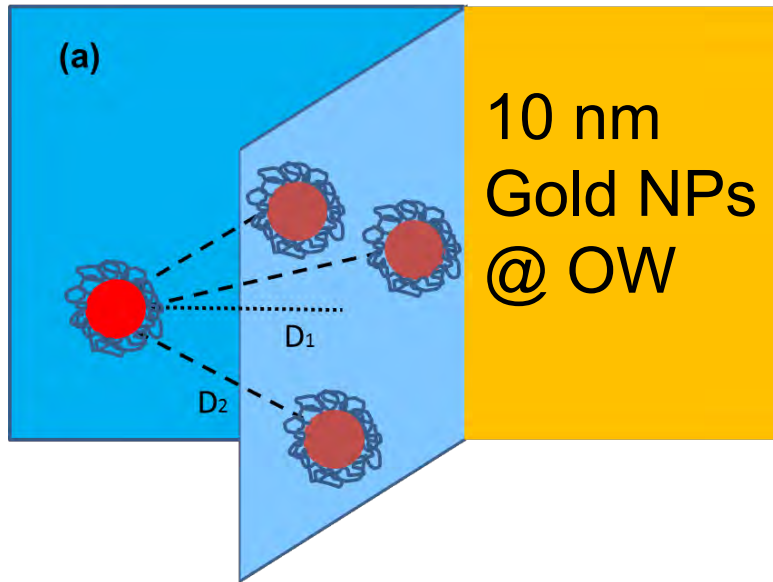
$E_{HB}$

(hydrophobic attraction close to the interface)



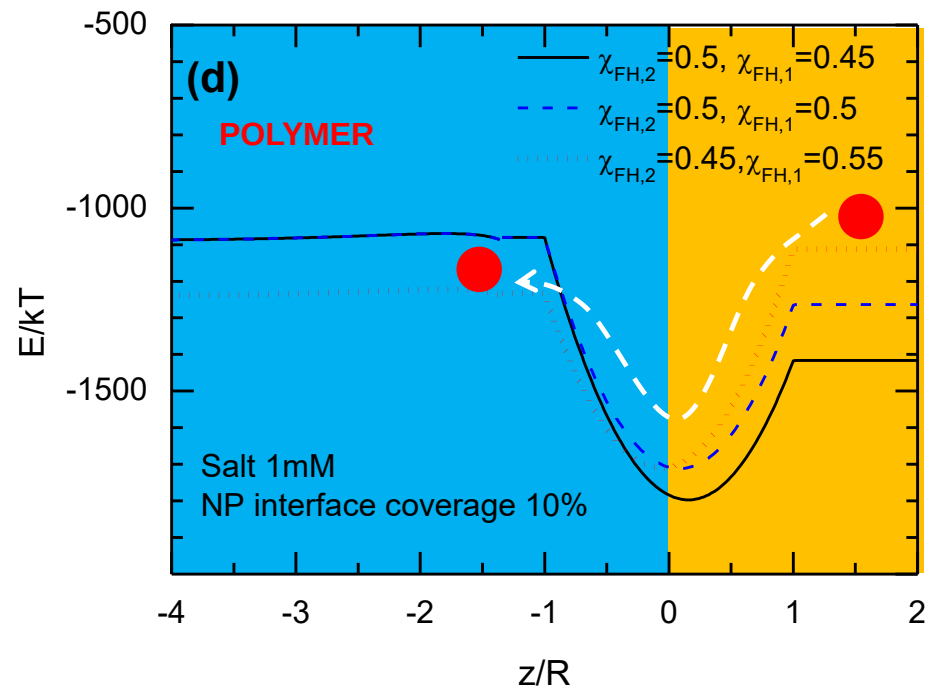
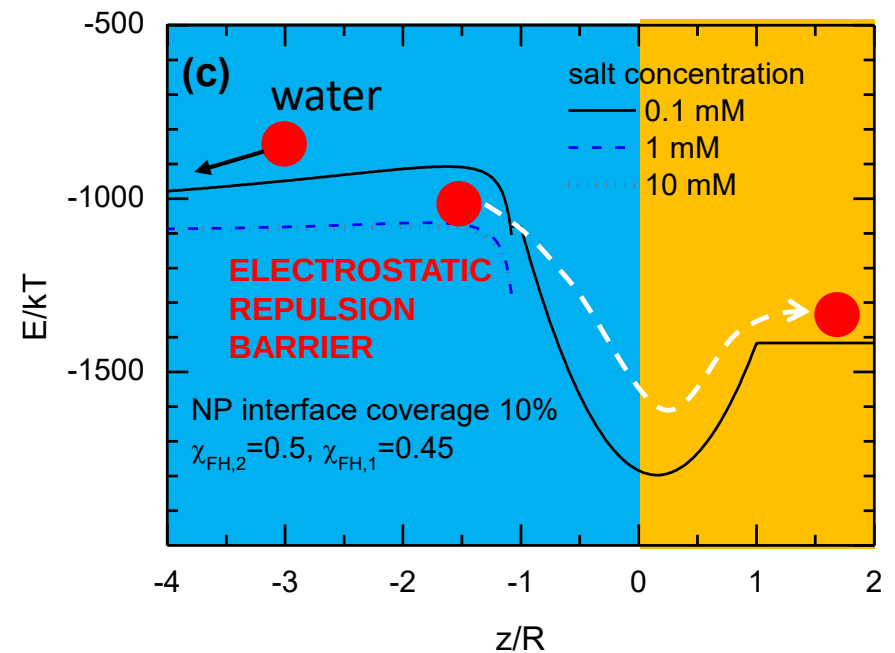
Fig. 1 Digital photograph of a 40 nm gold colloid covered with hexane without (left) and with the addition of 28.6 vol.% of ethanol (right).

$$E(z) = E_W + E_{DLVO} + E_{POLYMER} + E_{HB}$$



Stocco et al. *Angewandte Chemie* 2012

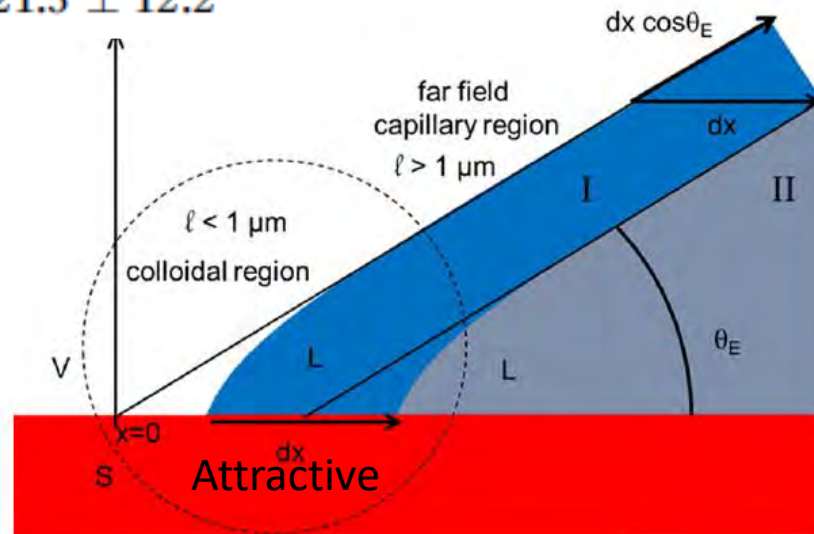
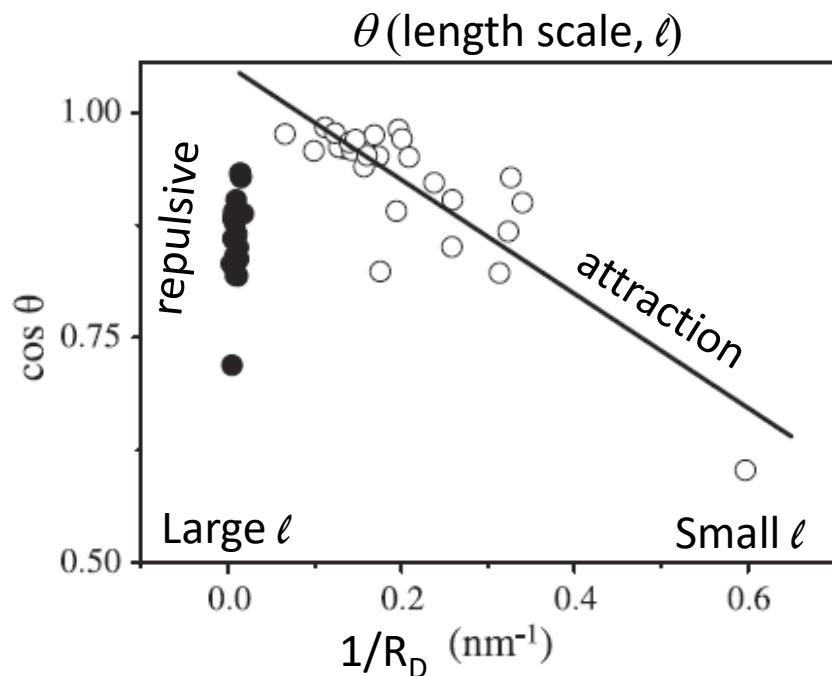
...in agreement with crossing experiments...  
Still the minimum is too deep, repulsion between NPs at the interface?



# Contact angle - Wetting vs Colloidal Forces

|            | Water in air   | 0.1 M NaCl in air | 0.1 M NaOH in air |
|------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| $\theta_E$ | $53.3 \pm 0.9$ | $52.2 \pm 0.7$    | $53.1 \pm 1.2$    |
| $\Theta$   |                | $67.5 \pm 4.6$    | $21.5 \pm 12.2$   |

Capillarity rules the large length scales. Long-range surface interactions (VdW, Electrostatics..) become important the small length scales



Stocco, Möhwald Langmuir 2015



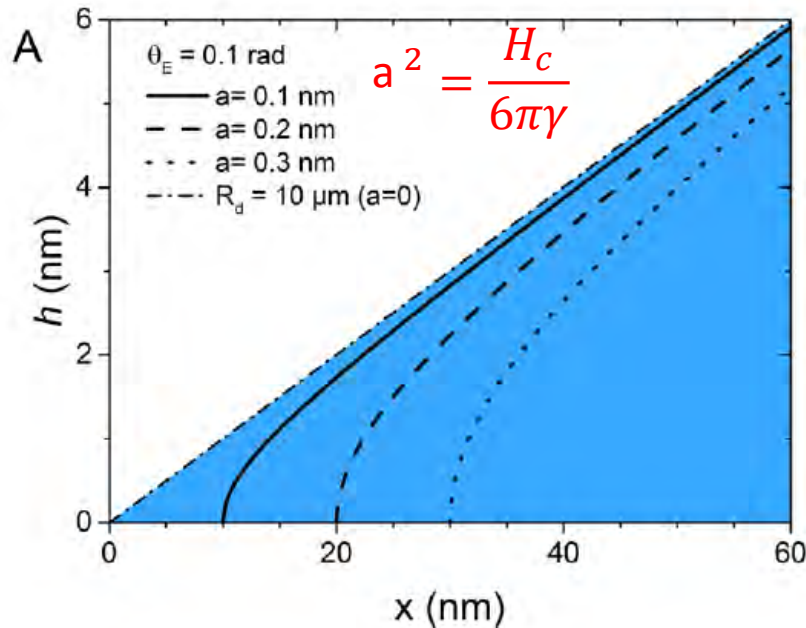
$\theta$  (length scale)  
Nanodrops, nanobubbles

Lohse et al. Rev Mod Physics 2015

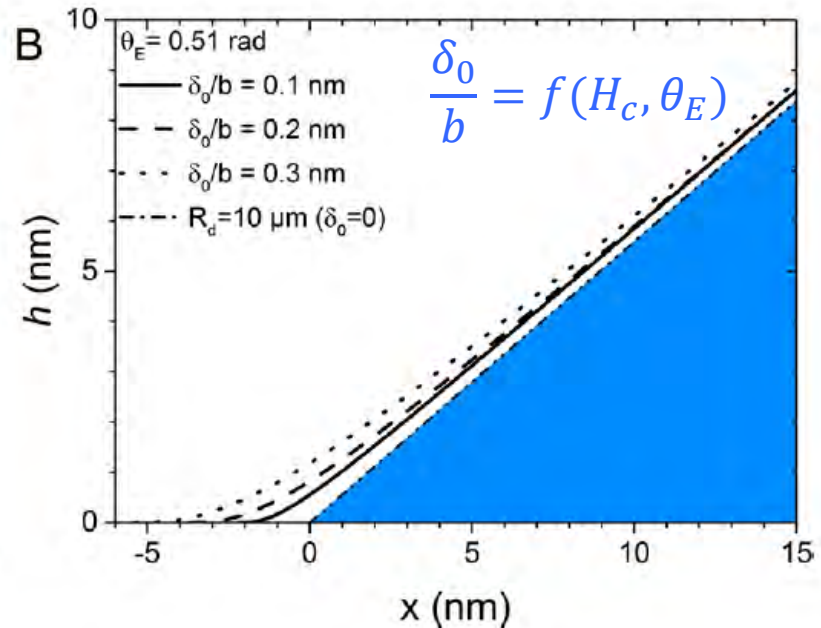
# Particle radius sets the scale of wetting

Long range Van der Waals

Stocco, Möhwald Langmuir 2015



**Attraction** long range interactions  
 Increase of local contact angle ( $\ell \rightarrow 0$ )

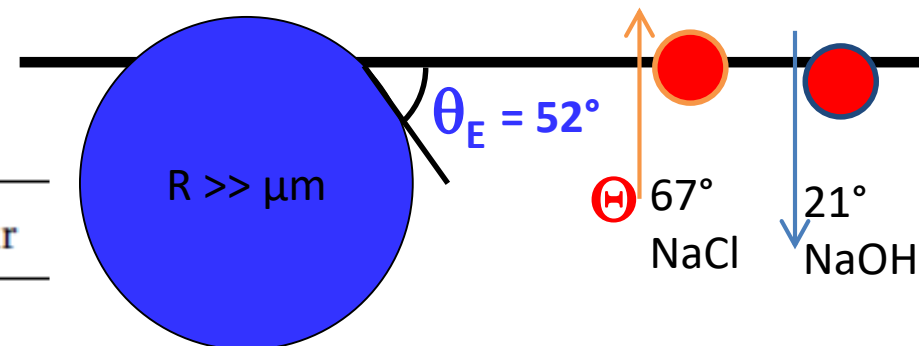


**Repulsion** interactions,  
 Decrease of local contact angle ( $\ell \rightarrow 0$ )

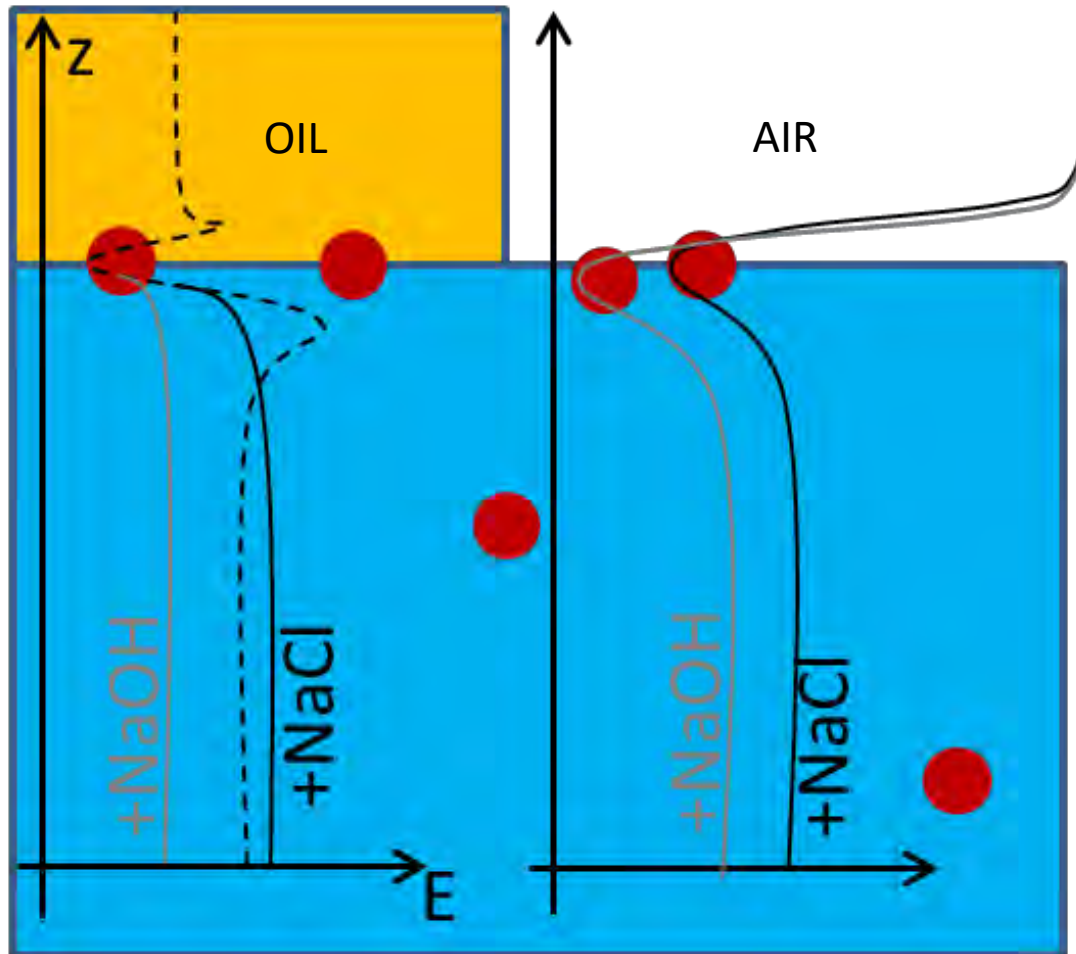
|            | 0.1 M NaCl in air | 0.1 M NaOH in air |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| $\theta_E$ | $52.2 \pm 0.7$    | $53.1 \pm 1.2$    |
| $\Theta$   | $67.5 \pm 4.6$    | $21.5 \pm 12.2$   |

**Attraction**

**Repulsion**

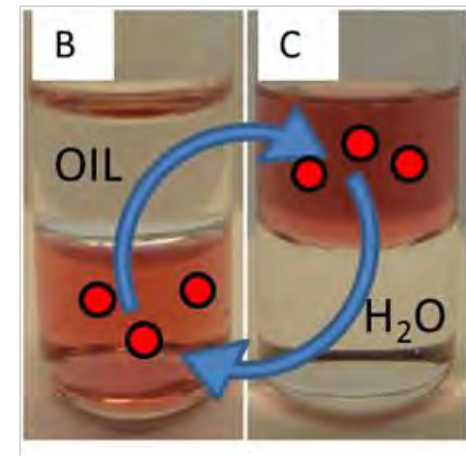
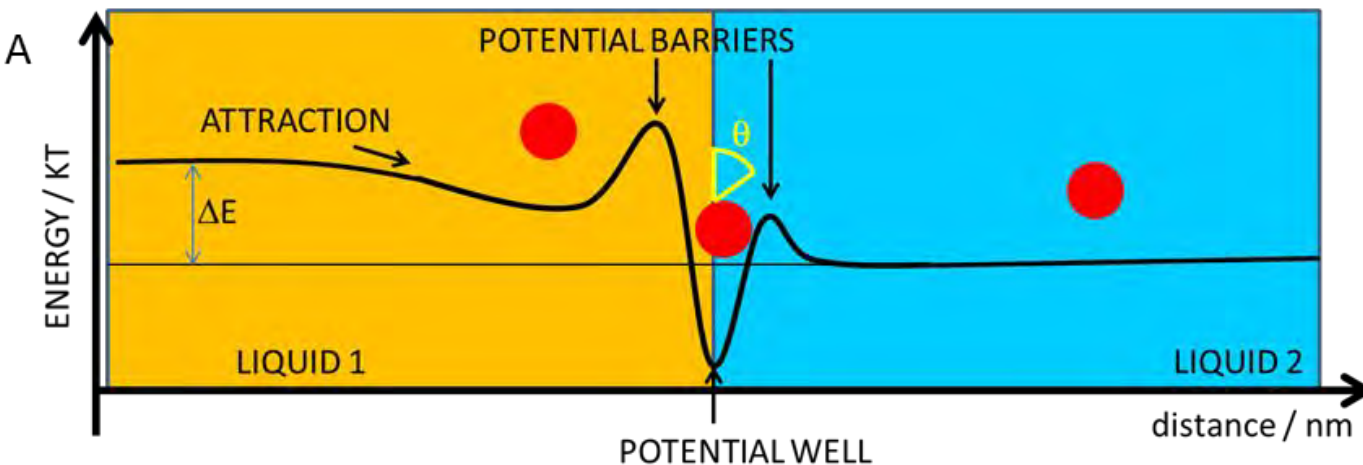


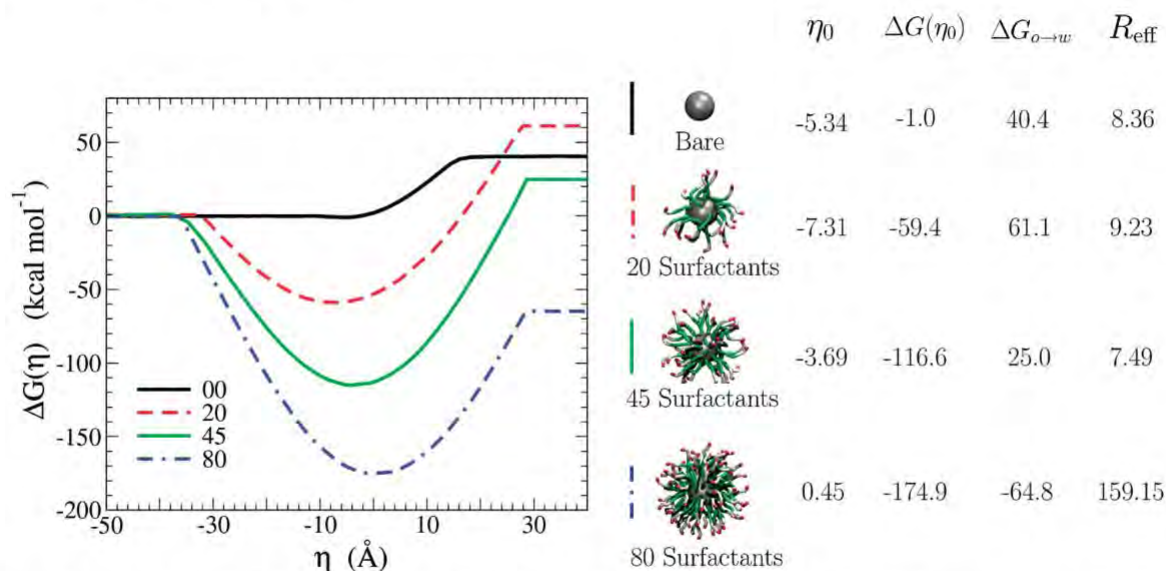
# Summary



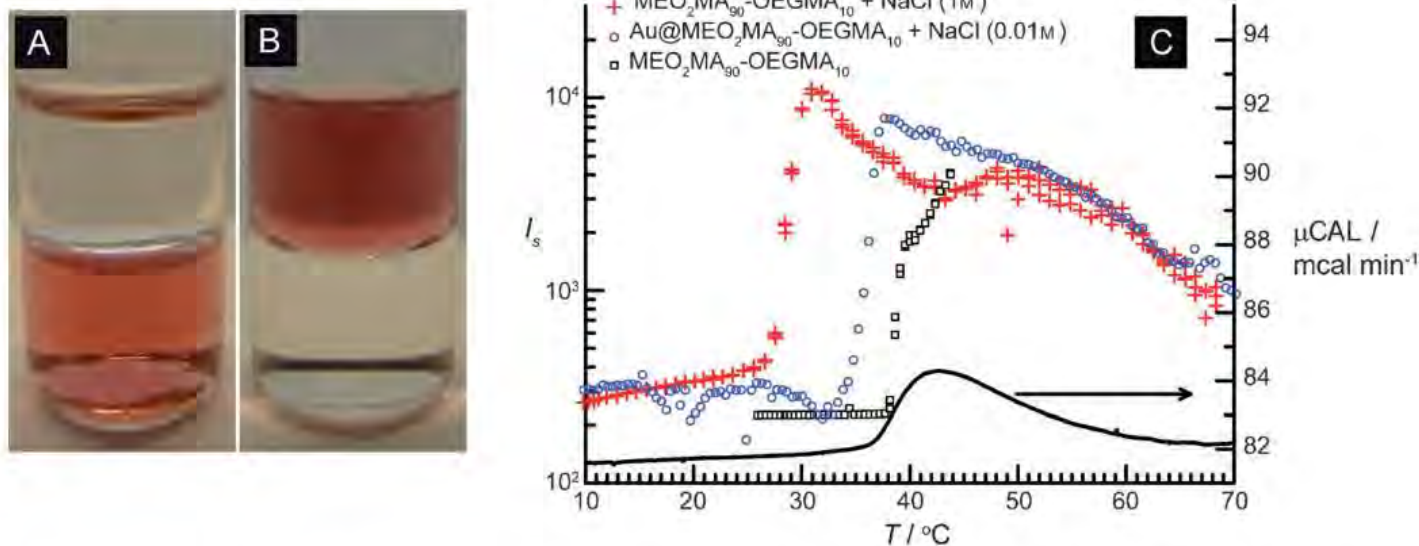
# Conclusions

- » Very slow and low adsorption onto Fluid Interface
  - » Ellipsometry: Energy landscape & Wetting
  - » Electrostatic energy barrier
  - » Phase Transfer can be finely triggered
- 
- » Role of Long range surface forces on Wetting & transfer

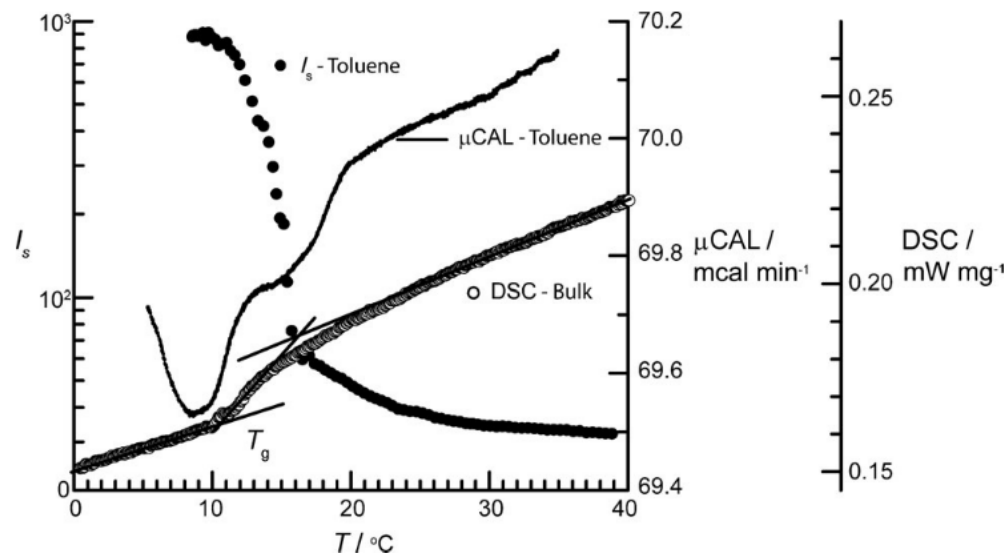




**Figure 4.** The free energy profiles of the four NP systems. All the NPs show surface activity, which is augmented with surfactant functionalization. The equilibrium positions ( $\eta_0$ , in Å), free energy minima ( $\Delta G(\eta_0)$ , in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>), oil to water transfer free energies ( $\Delta G_{o \rightarrow w}$ , in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) and the effective radii ( $R_{\text{eff}}$ , in Å) from eq 4 are given to the right. Details on how accurate values for  $\eta_0$  are obtained may be found in the Supporting Information.



**Figure 1.** A)  $\text{Au@MEO}_2\text{MA}_{90}\text{-co-OEGMA}_{10}$  NPs well dispersed in water (at room temperature) with a clear toluene phase on top and B) NP transfer to toluene upon adding salt under stirring. The NP concentration in water is  $50 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ . C) Temperature-dependent light scattered intensity profiles of  $\text{MEO}_2\text{MA}_{90}\text{-co-OEGMA}_{10}$  copolymer ( $10 \text{ g L}^{-1}$ ) in pure water (squares) and 1 M NaCl solution (crosses) and  $\text{Au@MEO}_2\text{MA}_{90}\text{-co-OEGMA}_{10}$  NPs with 10 mM NaCl solution ( $50 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ , circles). The black curve shows microcalorimetry raw data for the polymer in water. The heating rate ( $\delta T / \delta t$ ) is  $6^\circ\text{C h}^{-1}$ .



**Figure 3.** Temperature-dependent light scattered intensity of dispersions of Au@MEO<sub>2</sub>MA<sub>90</sub>-co-OEGMA<sub>10</sub> NPs in toluene (50 mg L<sup>-1</sup>,  $\delta T/\delta t = 6^\circ\text{C h}^{-1}$ ) (solid circles). Microcalorimetry raw data of MEO<sub>2</sub>MA<sub>90</sub>-co-OEGMA<sub>10</sub> copolymer in toluene (10 g L<sup>-1</sup>,  $\delta T/\delta t = 6^\circ\text{C h}^{-1}$ ) (blue curve). Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) raw data of dry MEO<sub>2</sub>MA<sub>90</sub>-co-OEGMA<sub>10</sub> ( $\delta T/\delta t = 600^\circ\text{C h}^{-1}$ ) (red open circles).